

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FACILITATING PARTS PROCUREMENT AND
PRODUCTION PLANNING ACROSS AN EXTENDED SUPPLY CHAIN

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An exemplary embodiment of the invention relates to a computer-based system and method for automating supply chain functions in a network environment, and more particularly, for identifying and implementing cost-savings techniques within the parts procurement and production planning system of an extended enterprise. The system includes a manufacturing enterprise or original equipment manufacturer (OEM) system comprising a host system operating a web server, an applications server, and a database manager; a data storage device in communication with the host system, and at least one terminal for accessing the host system. The OEM system runs on a network that is coupled to the Internet and is accessible to a supplier enterprise system and/or contract manufacturer system identified with proper permissions. The applications server executes a set of programs for managing the OEM system, including the A-source application of the present invention. The A-source application is assisted by bridging software capable of integrating a variety of data pertaining to parts or components collected from a plurality of sources, such as physical attributes for components stored in one database and corresponding business attributes stored in a second database, and organizing the data in a manner such that the organization implementing the software can then perform comprehensive analyses on the integrated data and ultimately make more effective purchasing decisions based upon the analyses. Bills of material, requests for quotes (RFQs), requests for price updates, and the physical and business attributes belonging to the bills of material are inputted into the manufacturing enterprise system via the A-source application where analysis and calculations are performed on the inputs and cost savings techniques can be identified and electronically implemented.